CONCLUSION

A LETTER TO AN AVERAGE ENGLISHMAN

DEAR FRIEND,

I am taking it for granted that you have read what I have written with an open mind. I could have made it far harsher without injustice. If you look at even a moderate history like Thompson and Garrett's *Rise and Fulfilment of British Rule in India,* or delve more deeply into the origins of the British Empire in India, you will find things that make you deeply ashamed.

It is these facts which we so often forget or even have not known which make us seem so hypocritical when we attack Italian aggression or the Japanese invasion of China. It is no good saying that our hands are clean, because they are not and only a fool or knave will try to say so. We took India by sword and trickery; we drained her of wealth. In return we have given her the fruits (sometimes Dead Sea fruits) of modern knowledge. We built railways; they are often designed rather for strategic purposes or for trade than for the comfort of the people and, while the third-class passengers form the great proportion of travellers, I can say with feeling that they are shabbily treated, overcrowded and subjected to petty inconveniences. Of education and the general welfare of the people, I have said enough. There were many aip.ong .earlier generations of Englishmen in India who grew to love India and her people, and there are still some who desire to heal her wounds, but they are all too few.

I have not laid stress on the sad history of race prejudice and arrogance which have done more to embitter Indians